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(54) Title: PROCESS FOR THE PRODUCTION OF FLUOROCARBONS

(57) Abstract

A process is disclosed for the manufacture of hexafluoropropylene and 1,1,1,2,3,3,3-heptafluoropropane. The process involves: (a) feeding 1,1,2-trichloro-3,3,3-trifluoropropene-1, HF and Cl₂ to a first reaction zone containing a catalyst comprising trivalent chromium and operating at a temperature of at least 250 °C, but not more than about 325 °C, to produce a reactor effluent comprising C₃Cl₃F₅, C₃Cl₂F₆, CF₃CClFCF₃, HCl and HF. The reactor effluent of (a) may be distilled to produce (i) a low boiling stream including HCl; (ii) a reactant stream including an azeotrope of 2-chloro-1,1,1,2,3,3,3-heptafluoropropane and HF and (iii) a high-boiling stream including C₃Cl₂F₆ and C₃Cl₃F₅. The 2-chloro-1,1,1,2,3,3,3-heptafluoropropane of reactant stream (ii) may be reacted with hydrogen in the presence of a catalyst to produce a mixture of hexafluoropropylene and 1,1,1,2,3,3,3-heptafluoropropane, while the C₃Cl₂F₆ and C₃Cl₃F₅ of high boiling stream (iii) may be fed along with HF to a second reaction zone containing a catalyst comprising trivalent chromium and operating at a temperature of at least about 375 °C to produce a reaction product comprising CF3CClFCF3 and HF. The reactor product from the second reaction zone may be recycled to the first reaction zone.

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